

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 30 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is understood that such cutting elements can be designed in any way known in the prior art. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 32 with the following rewritten paragraph:

*B24  
Canc*  
--These and further modifications are considered to lie within the scope of the present application, to be immediately obvious to the person skilled in the art after reading the description, and to lie within the scope of the appended claims. For instance, it is possible to effect the supply of working fluid and the discharge of cleaning material in another way, i.e., to arrange the interior of housing 4 slightly differently. Furthermore, the method described above can be used for the removal of other tissue material, such as prostate tissue through the urethra, or for the removal of tissue from the wall of the urinary bladder.--

In the Claims:

*B25*  
Please cancel claims 12-19 without prejudice.

Please rewrite claims 20, 22 and 23 to read as follows:

*B21  
B25*  
20. (Amended) Method for the removal of tissue from a body cavity, comprising inserting a device into said cavity for cutting and detaching said tissue, introducing a fluid into said cavity, discharging fluid with detached tissue along a first path, and discharging substantially only fluid along a second path, said discharge along said second path being regulated to control pressure in said body cavity.

22. (Amended) Method according to claim 20, in which inserting the device into said

*B21*  
cavity comprises

inserting an insertion mandrel, and  
removing the insertion mandrel prior to inserting the device.

*D*  
*3/26/00*  
*Conrad*

23. (Amended) Method according to claim 21, in which inserting the device into said cavity comprises  
inserting an insertion mandrel, and  
removing the insertion mandrel prior to inserting the device.

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Please add new claims 24-37.

--24. (New) A surgical endoscopic cutting assembly, comprising:  
a housing assembly having fitted therein a viewing channel and including a receiving part, and  
a cutter including a cutting element, said cutter being received within said receiving part, said cutter defining a suction channel for discharging fluid and cut tissue,  
the housing assembly defining a suction channel configured and arranged for discharging substantially only fluid, said housing assembly having an opening extending through a wall of said housing assembly in a distal portion of said housing assembly and in fluid communication with said housing assembly suction channel.

25. (New) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said housing assembly further comprises an outer insertion tube and an inner housing, said inner housing including said viewing channel and said receiving part, said housing assembly suction channel being bounded between said insertion tube and said inner housing.

26. (New) The assembly of claim 25 wherein said opening extends through a wall of said insertion tube in a distal portion of said insertion tube.

27. (New) The assembly of claim 26 wherein said insertion tube has a plurality of openings extending through said wall in said distal portion.

28. (New) The assembly of claim 25 further comprising a coupler configured to detachably fix said insertion tube to said inner housing.

29. (New) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said cutter extends beyond a distal end of said housing assembly.

30. (New) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said cutter channel has a distal end located beyond a distal end of said housing assembly.

*B27  
Cutter*  
31. (New) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said cutter further comprises a protective tube extending around an inner member.

*D*  
32. (New) The assembly of claim 31 wherein said cutter channel is defined within said inner member.

33. (New) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said housing assembly has a length of at least about 30 cm.

34. (New) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said viewing channel includes a lens and a connector configured for connecting to a camera.

35. (New) The assembly of claim 24 wherein said receiving part defines a fluid inlet channel bounded between said receiving part and said cutter.

36. (New) A surgical instrument, comprising:  
a mechanical cutting implement configured to cut tissue,  
a first member coupled to the cutting implement and defining a first channel configured and arranged relative to said cutting implement for removing fluid and cut tissue from a surgical site, and